

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 07307 180748Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 /048 W
 054617 /13

R 171505Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3797
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 7307

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GE, US
SUBJ: US-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 303516

1. PAO MET TODAY WITH DR. MERKEL, HEAD OF MFA'S CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, AND MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION REFTEL PROPOSALS WITHOUT ANY TIME IDENTIFYING AS CULTURAL PLAN BUT AS PROGRAMS BY WHICH US AND GDR COULD MOVE AHEAD IN CULTURAL AREA, AND TO WHICH WE REQUIRED AT THIS TIME AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH AS MUCH WORKING OUT OF DETAILS AS BOTH PARTIES CAPABLE OF DETERMINING.

2. AMERICAN FILM RETROSPECTIVE. PAO EXPLAINED THAT MARCH DATE WOULD CREATE CONFLICTS WITH US PARTICIPATION IN LEIPZIG FAIR AND PROPOSED MID-APRIL, POINTING OUT THAT MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED WITH DR. BETTIN EARLIER WITHOUT OBJECTION. MERKEL RESPONDED SIMILARLY, UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY. THE LARGE, PRESTIGIOUS FIRST-RUN KOSMOS INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ON KARL MARX ALLE WAS PROPOSED AS VENUE TO WHICH MARKEL ALSO AGREED AND WILL PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC DATE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH KOSMOS. ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS ADMISSION PRICES, INVITED AUDIENCES AND RELATED MATTERS, MERKEL PROMISED SUBMIT DETAILED PLAN SHORTLY BASED ON EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 07307 180748Z

NATIONAL FILM WEEKS.

3. PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT. MERKEL AGREED TO NOVEMBER SHOWING BUT WAS UNCERTAIN WHERE AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY STRAND EXHIBIT COULD BE HOUSED. SIZE AND OTHER DETAILS WERE GIVEN HIM FOR STUDY AND HE PROMISES A REPLY SOON, AND APPEARED HAVE NO

PROBLEM WITH HUMBOLDT AS SITE.

4. AMERICAN LITERATURE SEMINAR. MERKEL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS BUT ASKED WHETHER THIS IDEA TABLED FOR FIRST TIME. PAO SAID THIS AND SIMILAR PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE FREQUENTLY IN PAST, MOST RECENTLY IN BETTIN DISCUSSIONS WITH KORNBLUM, ARNOLD AND SEVERAL TIMES WITH PAO. MERKEL NODDED VIGOROUSLY, AGREED, AND WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT NAME AUTHOR WOULD BE AMONG FIVE US PARTICIPANTS. ON TIMING, MERKEL AGREED THAT SUMMER WAS MOST INOPPORTUNE TIME, BUT THAT EITHER JUNE OR SEPTEMBER WERE WORTH CONSIDERING, AND PROMISED REPLY LATER.

5. PERFORMING ARTS ATTRACTION. MERKEL ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL OF EITHER A SMALL BALLET OR MUSICAL GROUP WITHOUT HESITATION, AND THEN QUICKLY ANTICIPATED MOST RELEVANT ISSUE, NAMELY, SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING. PAO NOTED THAT TALKS WITH OTHER CULTURAL OFFICIALS ON THIS SPECIFIC PROBLEM ALWAYS EVOKED COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF HARD CURRENCY AND HIGH FEES DEMANDED BY AMERICAN ARTISTS; CONSEQUENTLY, SOME MIDDLE GROUND MIGHT HAVE TO BE FOUND. MERKEL AGREED, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR UNDERSTANDING GDR'S MONETARY PROBLEM, SAID QUESTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTOR FALK OF THE "KUENSTLER AGENTUR DER DDR" AND POSSIBILITIES SUCH AS ROUNDTRIP FARE COSTS BORN BY US AND ALL OTHER EXPENSES PAID BY GDR. PROMISED GIVE RESULT THESE DISCUSSIONS SOON. MERKEL DESCRIBED FALK AS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THESE MATTERS AND - FYI - THAT, IN FACT, HE WAS NOT NEGOTIATING WITH COLUMBIA ARTISTS FOR A 1979 TOUR OF THE US BY THE DRESDENER STAATSKAPELLE.

6. IREX. PAO, FOLLOWING REFTEL LANGUAGE, SUGGESTED TO MERKEL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 07307 180748Z

THAT MINHIGHED SHOULD BEGIN THINKING OF CANDIDATES IN EVENT FUNDING PERMITS EXPANSION IREX PROGRAM. MERKEL AGREED.

7. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATION, MERKEL ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSITIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH US PROPOSALS MADE, GAVE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE TO EACH PROGRAM, AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE OF GDR AT US ATTEMPT TO REALIZE PROGRAMS THAT WERE "ZWECKMAESSIG" AND IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HE SAID GDR WOULD STUDY US PROPOSALS AS TO DETAILS AND IF ANSWERS AVAILABLE, WOULD CONTACT CHARGE IN PAO'S ABSENCE. MERKEL SAID BY END OF JANUARY, WHEN PAO HL ENDS, HE WILL PRESENT CULTURAL COUNTER-PROPOSALS OF GDR-SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES IN US FOR 1977.

8. IN SAME CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE, MERKEL SAID HE WOULD LIKE ASK QUESTION, NAMELY, WHY CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE WITH HELSINKI FINAL ACT HAS TAKEN SUCH NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD GDR, WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND GDR,

ESPECIALLY IN CULTURAL AREA, ARE SO POSITIVE, AS SUBSTANCE OF PRESENT MEETING PROVES. PAO SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN TEXT OF SENAT REPORT BUT THAT CULTURAL AREA REPRESENTS ONLY PART OF OVERALL VILATERAL RELATIONS, AND THAT OUTSTANDING ISSUES SUCH AS CLAIMS, CONSULAR CONVENTION AND ENTIRE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS HAVE YET TO BE RESOLVED. MERKEL DID NOT DISPUTE REPLY.

COMMENT: AS ALL OF FOREGOING INDICATES, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY CONFUSION OF SIGNALS FROM GDR ON CULTURAL PROJECTION FOR 1977. BETTIN WAS HAPPILY OUT OF TOWN ON LEAVE, AND HIS SUPERIOR, MERKEL, A FAR MORE RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE GESPRACHSPARTNER TO DEAL WITH. ALTHOUGH CHARGE AND PAO HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED POSSIBLE NEED FOR AID MEMOIRE, WHEN SUGGESTED TO MERKEL, HE DECLINED AND SAID HIS NOTETAKER, THE PERENNIAL BOEHLER, HAD RECORDED THE MAIN POINTS OF THE MEETING. IN ANY CASE, THE EMBASSY NO LONGER DOUBTS THAT MOVEMENT ON THE CULTURAL SIDE IS NOW IN PROGRESS, BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BERLIN 07307 180748Z

MERKEL'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND FURTHER REACTIONS, WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FILM RETROSPECTIVE AS THE FIRST MAJOR TEST.POLANSKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN07307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-1083
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761231/aaaabagz.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 303516
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GC, US
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006